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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for accessing resources within a data processing network, comprising the steps of:
 - computing a set of hash values representing a set of resources stored in association with at least one data processing system within the network;
 - storing the computed set of hash values;
 - in response to a requirement for access to a required first resource which is accessible via a bandwidth-sensitive connection, retrieving a hash value derived from the required first resource;
 - comparing the retrieved hash value with the stored set of hash values to identify a match between the retrieved hash value and any of the stored set of hash values;
 - in response to identifying a match for the retrieved hash value, initiating retrieval of the required first resource from said at least one data processing system and via said bandwidth-sensitive connection, including initiating retrieval of the required first resource via said bandwidth-sensitive connection in parallel with initiating retrieval of the required first resource from said at least one data processing system, wherein it is unknown at the time of the initiating whether bits of the required first resource will be delivered faster from the bandwidth-sensitive connection or from the at least one data processing system, and wherein the required first resource has bits arranged in a sequence, and the step of initiating retrieval of the required first resource from said at

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least one data processing system and via said bandwidth-sensitive connection comprises:

initiating retrieval of all bits of said required first resource from said at least one data processing system and initiating retrieval of all bits of said required first resource via said bandwidth-sensitive connection, wherein the retrieval of bits of said required first resource from said at least one data processing system is in a reverse bit sequence order relative to the retrieval of bits of said required first resource via the bandwidth-sensitive connection; and wherein the method includes:

combining portions of the bit sequence of said required first resource received via the bandwidth-sensitive connection and received from said at least one data processing system to build the bit sequence of said required first resource; and

presenting an indication of the retrieval of the required first resource to a user; wherein the step of retrieving the hash value derived from the required first resource comprises:

sending a resource access request to a server computer at the remote network;
and

receiving the hash value from the server computer, and wherein the instructions when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement the method such that the method further comprises the steps of:

retrieving information indicating size of the required first resource; and
completing the combining responsive to a total number of bits retrieved reaching the indicated size of the required first resource, wherein the reaching of the indicated

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size indicates that all bits of the required first resource have been retrieved, and wherein respective sizes of the portions of the bit sequence from the bandwidth-sensitive connection and from said at least one data processing system are not determined prior to all bits of the required first resource being retrieved.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the hash value derived from the required first resource comprises:

 sending a resource access request to a server computer via the bandwidth-sensitive connection; and

 receiving the hash value from the server computer via the bandwidth-sensitive connection.

3-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A method for accessing resources within a data processing network, comprising the steps of:

 computing a set of hash values representing a set of resources distributed across a plurality of data processing systems within a local area network (LAN), the resources within said set of resources being accessible from respective ones of the plurality of data processing systems;

 storing the set of hash values together with an identification of a respective data processing system of said plurality of data processing systems storing the resource corresponding to each of the set of hash values;

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in response to a requirement for access to a required resource which is stored at a remote data processing system, retrieving from the remote data processing system a hash value derived from the required resource;

comparing the retrieved hash value with the stored set of hash values to identify a match between the retrieved hash value and any of the stored set of hash values;

in response to identifying a match for the retrieved hash value, initiating retrieval of the required resource from a respective one of the plurality of data processing systems at which the resource corresponding to the matched hash value is stored and from said remote data processing system, including initiating retrieval of the required resource from the remote data processing system in parallel with initiating retrieval of the required resource from the one of the plurality of data processing systems at which the resource corresponding to the matched hash value is stored, wherein it is unknown at the time of the initiating whether bits of the required first resource will be delivered faster from the bandwidth-sensitive connection or from the at least one data processing system, and wherein the required resource has bits arranged in a sequence, and the step of initiating retrieval of the required resource from said at least one data processing system comprises:

initiating retrieval of the bit sequence of said required resource in a reverse order relative to the retrieval of said required resource via the bandwidth-sensitive connection; and wherein the method includes:

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combining portions of the bit sequence of said required resource received via the bandwidth-sensitive connection and received from said at least one data processing system to build the bit sequence of said required resource; and

presenting an indication of the retrieval of the required resource to a user;

wherein the method further comprises:

retrieving information indicating size of the required resource for use in

controlling the combining; and

completing the combining responsive to a total number of bits retrieved reaching the indicated size of the required resource, wherein the reaching of the indicated size indicates that all bits of the required first resource have been retrieved, and wherein respective sizes of the portions of the bit sequence from the bandwidth-sensitive connection and from said at least one data processing system are not determined prior to all bits of the required first resource being retrieved.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the set of hash values and identification of a respective data processing system are stored with information regarding the location within storage of the respective data processing system of the resource corresponding to the hash value.

8-18. (canceled)

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19. (withdrawn) A method for accessing resources within a data processing network, comprising the steps of: computing a hash value representing a resource stored at a server data processing system; and embedding the hash value within a hyperlink of a data entity associated with the resource.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising: embedding at least one additional resource reference within the hyperlink, to generate a hyperlink that comprises a plurality of resource references.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20, further comprising: embedding within the hyperlink relative priorities associated with each of the plurality of resource references.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the steps of computing a hash value and embedding the hash value in a hyperlink are performed in response to a request for access to the data entity.

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23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the steps of computing a hash value and embedding the hash value in a hyperlink are performed by a preprocessor which scans data entities for hyperlinks, determines the hash value of a resource referenced by the hyperlink, and embeds the determined hash value within the hyperlink.

24. (withdrawn) A method for accessing resources within a data processing network, comprising the steps of: storing a set of hash values computed from a set of resources, wherein the resources are available from at least one data processing system within the network; receiving a hash value representing a desired resource, and comparing the received hash value with the stored set of hash values to identify a match between the received hash value and any of the stored hash values; and in response to identifying a match for the received hash value, initiating retrieval of the required resource from said at least one data processing system.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claim 24, further comprising: in response to failure to identify a match for the received hash value by comparison with the set of hash values, initiating a communication with a data processing apparatus storing a second set of hash values and initiating a comparison between the received hash value and the hash values of the second set of hash values.

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26. (withdrawn) A method for accessing resources within a data processing network, comprising the steps of: receiving a data entity including a hyperlink that references a server computer and references a resource by means of a hash value representing the resource; in response to user selection of the hyperlink, sending a resource-access request including the hash value to the referenced server computer.

27. (withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of: for a received data entity including a hyperlink that comprises a plurality of resource references and associated relative priorities of each of the plurality of resource references, determining the resource reference having the highest priority, identifying a server computer from the highest priority resource reference, and sending to the identified server computer a resource-access request including the highest priority resource reference.

28. (withdrawn) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of: in response to a notification that the resource identified by the highest priority resource reference is inaccessible via the server computer, determining the resource reference having the second highest priority, identifying a respective server computer from the second highest resource reference, and sending to the respective identified server computer a resource-access request including the second highest resource reference.

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29. (withdrawn) A method for computing an identifier for a resource, comprising the steps of: scanning the resource to identify hash-based URIs within hyperlinks embedded in the resource; extracting the hash-based URIs from the hyperlinks to generate a modified resource which does not contain the extracted hashes; and applying a secure hash function to the modified resource to compute a hash value representing the modified resource.

30-43. (canceled)